was initially admitted in Central Jail No. 2 on 18th January, 1995 as a detenue under Public Safety Act and later shifted to Jail No. 1 from where he was released on 17th January, 1997. Both these prisoners were, therefore, lodged in different jails.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to reduce overcrowding in jail include construction of new jails in the campus of Central Jail, Tihar and in other areas of Delhi; holding of Special Courts to try cases of under trials who confess their involvement in petty offences; and release of prisoners on personal bonds/relaxed surety conditions.

Leave sought by LCA Project Director

*150. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Project Director of the Light Combat Aircraft has expressed desire to leave the project; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):(a) and (b) The Programme Director of Light Combat Aircraft has submitted his request for sanction of sabbatical leave to pursue academic/research work.

Decline in Export of Synthetic Textiles and Rayon

*152. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports of Indian synthetic textiles and rayon have declined by about 5 per cent during the period April 1 to September 30, of this fiscal year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the industry claims that the "Stoppage of brand rate drawback" has contributed to the decline in synthetic textiles exports;

(d) if so, the role of this duty drawback in enhancing our synthetic textile exports; and